

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A [[device for connecting a]] heart valve device for connection to a first mass comprising:

a gasket body comprising an annular wall defining a gasket radius around a longitudinal axis central to the gasket body, the wall defining first and second edges, the gasket body further comprising a sewing ring including a skirt extending radially outwardly from the first edge and a complementary attachment device,

wherein the complementary attachment device comprises an inner attachment radius and an outer attachment radius,

wherein the gasket radius, the inner attachment radius and the outer attachment radius are measured from the longitudinal axis, and wherein the outer attachment radius is greater than the gasket radius, and

wherein the complementary attachment element comprises a receptacle, the receptacle comprising a ratchet tooth for self-ratchetedly engaging a detent on an elongate attachment device received therethrough.

2. (previously amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein the inner attachment radius is greater than the gasket radius.

3. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 1, wherein the inner attachment radius is substantially equal to the outer gasket radius.

4. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 1, wherein the inner attachment radius is less than the outer gasket radius.

5. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 4, wherein the inner attachment radius is greater than the inner gasket radius.

6-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device is resilient.

10. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device is deformable.

11-15. (canceled)

16. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device comprises an internal obstacle.

17-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The device of Claim 1 [[17]], wherein the sewing ring [[flange]] comprises a fabric.

22-28. (canceled)

29. (original) The device of Claim 24, wherein the receptacle comprises a can.

30. (original) The device of Claim 29, wherein the can is deformable.

31. (original) The device of Claim 29, wherein the can is resilient.

32. (currently amended) [[The]] A heart valve device [[of Claim 29,]] for connection to a first mass comprising:

a gasket body comprising an annular wall defining a gasket radius around a longitudinal axis central to the gasket body, the wall defining first and second edges, the gasket body further comprising a sewing ring including a skirt extending radially outwardly from the first edge and a complementary attachment device,

wherein the complementary attachment device comprises an inner attachment radius and an outer attachment radius,

wherein the gasket radius, the inner attachment radius and the outer attachment radius are measured from the longitudinal axis, and wherein the outer attachment radius is greater than the gasket radius, and

wherein the complementary attachment element comprises a can and the can is fixedly attached to the gasket body.

33. (canceled)

34. (original) The device of Claim 29, wherein the can comprises solid walls.

35. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 29, wherein the can comprises a wireframe.

36. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 29, wherein the can comprises a wrapped plate.

37. (currently amended) [[The]] A heart valve device [[of Claim 29,]] for connection to a first mass comprising:

a gasket body comprising an annular wall defining a gasket radius around a longitudinal axis central to the gasket body, the wall defining first and second edges, the gasket body further comprising a sewing ring including a skirt extending radially outwardly from the first edge and a complementary attachment device,

wherein the complementary attachment device comprises an inner attachment radius and an outer attachment radius,

wherein the gasket radius, the inner attachment radius and the outer attachment radius are measured from the longitudinal axis, and wherein the outer attachment radius is greater than the gasket radius, and

wherein the complementary attachment element comprises a can and the can comprises a ratchet tooth.

38. (original) The device of Claim 37, further comprising an attachment device configured to interact with the can.

39. (original) The device of Claim 38, wherein the attachment device comprises a digitation.

40. (canceled)

41. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device is integral with the gasket body.

42. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device comprises a first cam.

43. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 42, wherein the first cam is rotatably attached to the gasket body.

44. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 42, wherein the complementary attachment device comprises a second cam.

45. (canceled)

46. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 1, wherein the complementary attachment device further comprises a first fenestration.

47. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 46, wherein the complementary attachment device further comprises a first end, a second end, and a second fenestration between the first fenestration and the second end,

wherein the first fenestration is between the first end and the second end,
and wherein the complementary attachment device further comprises a first length between the first fenestration and the second fenestration.

48. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 47, further comprising an attachment device, wherein the device is configured for the attachment device to pass through the first fenestration.

49. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 48, wherein the device is configured for the attachment device to pass through the first length.

50. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 49, wherein the device is configured for the attachment device to pass through the second fenestration.

51. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a mechanical valve attached to the gasket body.

52. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a biological valve attached to the gasket body.

53. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a leaflet attached to the gasket body.

54. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising an attachment device adapted to interact with the complementary attachment device.

55. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 54, wherein the attachment device is knotless.

56. (original) The device of Claim 54, wherein the attachment device comprises a suture.

57. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 54, wherein the attachment device comprises a snare.

58-63. (canceled)

64. (withdrawn) The device of Claim 54, wherein the attachment device comprises a digitation.

65-73. (canceled)

74. (currently amended) A [[device for connecting a]] heart valve device for connection to a first mass comprising:

a gasket body comprising an annular wall covered by fabric,
a leaflet attached to the gasket body, and
a discrete receptacle attached to the gasket body for receiving an elongate attachment device having one or more detents therethrough, the receptacle comprising teeth elements comprising shelves and slopes for self-fixturingly ratcheting the attachment device [[member]] through the receptacle.

75-91. (canceled)

92. (currently amended) A [[device for connecting a]] heart valve device for connection to a first mass, comprising:

an annular body comprising a wall defining a circumference;
a plurality of receptacles spaced apart around the circumference of the wall, each receptacle comprising an element defining a shelf and a slope; and

a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through the receptacles, each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective receptacle, the attachment devices having lengths such that, once the attachment devices are received through the receptacles, the annular body can be parachuted down the attachment devices.

93. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, further comprising leaflets attached to the annular body.

94. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the attachment devices comprise sutures.

95. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the attachment devices comprise filaments.

96. (currently amended) [[The]] A heart valve device [[of claim 92]] for connection to a first mass, comprising:
an annular body comprising a wall defining a circumference;
a plurality of receptacles spaced apart around the circumference of the wall, each receptacle comprising an element defining a shelf and a slope; and
a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through the receptacles, each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective receptacle;

wherein each attachment device comprises a plurality of detents spaced apart along a length of the attachment device.

97. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein each detent comprises an angled tab.

98. (currently amended) The device of claim 92, further comprising a heart valve [[device]] attachable to the annular body.

99. (currently amended) The device of claim 98, wherein the heart valve [[device]] comprises a leaflet gasket holding leaflets.

100. (currently amended) The device of claim 98, wherein the heart valve [[device]] comprises a biological valve.

101. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the annular body is covered by fabric.

102. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the annular body comprises a gasket body, the gasket body comprising an annular wall and a sewing ring attached to the annular wall.

103. (previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein the sewing ring comprises a skirt extending radially outwardly from an edge of the wall.

104. (previously presented) The device of claim 103, wherein the skirt extends radially outwardly from a bottom edge of the wall.

105. (previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein the sewing ring comprises a flare extending radially outwardly from a bottom edge of the wall.

106. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the receptacles comprise cans.

107. (previously presented) The device of claim 92, wherein each receptacle comprises a plurality of shelves and slopes.

108. (currently amended) A heart valve assembly for implantation within a biological annulus, comprising:

a heart valve assembly comprising a crown carrying leaflets;
a gasket body comprising an annular wall and a sewing ring attached to the annular wall,
the sewing ring comprising a skirt extending radially outwardly from an edge of the wall; [[and]]
a plurality of fixturing devices for attaching the gasket body to the biological annulus; and

a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through respective fixturing devices,
the attachment devices having lengths such that, once the attachment devices are received through
the receptacles, the annular body can be parachuted down the attachment devices.

109. (previously presented) The heart valve assembly of claim 108, wherein the plurality of fixturing devices comprise a plurality of receptacles spaced apart around the circumference of the wall, each receptacle comprising an element defining a shelf and a slope, the receptacles configured for receiving elongate attachment devices therethrough, each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective receptacle.

110. (canceled)

111. (currently amended) The heart valve assembly of claim 108 [[110]], wherein the attachment devices comprise sutures.

112. (currently amended) The heart valve assembly of claim 108 [[110]], wherein the attachment devices comprise filaments.

113. (currently amended) A [[The]] heart valve assembly [[of claim 110,]] for implantation within a biological annulus, comprising:

a heart valve assembly comprising a crown carrying leaflets;

a gasket body comprising an annular wall and a sewing ring attached to the annular wall,
the sewing ring comprising a skirt extending radially outwardly from an edge of the wall;
a plurality of fixturing devices for attaching the gasket body to the biological annulus; and
a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through respective fixturing devices,
wherein each attachment device comprises a plurality of detents spaced apart along a length of the attachment device.

114. (previously presented) The heart valve assembly of claim 113, wherein each detent comprises an angled tab.

115. (currently amended) The heart valve assembly of claim 108 [[110]], wherein each fixturing device comprises an element defining a shelf and a slope, the fixturing devices configured for receiving respective elongate attachment devices therethrough, each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective fixturing device.

116. (currently amended) A [[The]] heart valve assembly [[of claim 115,]] for implantation within a biological annulus, comprising:

a heart valve assembly comprising a crown carrying leaflets;
a gasket body comprising an annular wall and a sewing ring attached to the annular wall,
the sewing ring comprising a skirt extending radially outwardly from an edge of the wall;
a plurality of fixturing devices for attaching the gasket body to the biological annulus; and
a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through respective fixturing devices,

wherein each fixturing device comprises an element defining a shelf and a slope, the
fixturing devices configured for receiving respective elongate attachment devices therethrough,
each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective
fixturing device; and

wherein each fixturing device comprises teeth elements for engaging the detent on the
respective attachment device.

117. (currently amended) A [[The]] heart valve assembly [[of claim 115,]] for
implantation within a biological annulus, comprising:
a heart valve assembly comprising a crown carrying leaflets;
a gasket body comprising an annular wall and a sewing ring attached to the annular wall,
the sewing ring comprising a skirt extending radially outwardly from an edge of the wall;
a plurality of fixturing devices for attaching the gasket body to the biological annulus; and
a plurality of elongate attachment devices receivable through respective fixturing devices,
wherein each fixturing device comprises an element defining a shelf and a slope, the
fixturing devices configured for receiving respective elongate attachment devices therethrough,
each attachment device comprising a detent for self-fixturingly ratcheting through a respective
fixturing device; and
wherein each fixturing device comprises a plurality of shelves and slopes.

118. (previously presented) The heart valve assembly of claim 117, wherein each attachment device comprises a plurality of detents spaced apart along a length of the attachment device.